

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A network access system comprising:
 - a ~~[[first]]~~ network access hub communicatively coupled to a global communications network and the network access hub communicatively connectable to a computing device, the network access hub operable to receive an initial set of credentials from a user via the computing device;
 - ~~a second network access hub communicatively coupled to the global communications network;~~
 - an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the ~~[[first]]~~ network access hub via the global communications network and the second network access hub, the authentication engine operable to receive [[an]] the initial set of credentials from a of the requesting user from the network access hub via the global communications network and operable to authenticate the initial set of credentials; and
 - an authorization engine operable to issue the computing device a token indicating a grant of access rights to both transport services and federated data services of federated data service providers via the global communications network and the network access hub in response to authorization the authentication of the [[first]] initial set of credentials, the token operable to authorize access of the user to both the transport services and the federated data services of the federated data service providers without the user having to provide the initial set of credentials to re-authenticate with the federated service providers.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a short-range wireless transceiver associated with the first network access hub.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the transport services comprise wireless communication via a wireless local area network technology link.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the data services comprise a service that provides personalized information based on an identity of the requesting user.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the federated data services include a first federated data service [[is]] provided by a first federated service provider, the data services further comprising another and a second federated data service provided by a different second federated service provider.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising a federation engine operable to maintain information that indicates members of a service provider federation, the service provider federation comprising the first federated service provider and the different second federated service provider.

7. (Currently amended) A network access method comprising:
receiving a first set of credentials at an authentication engine from an electronic device of a user via a network access hub and a global communications network; [[and]] authenticating the received first set of credentials;
authorizing access via an authorization engine to a network data service and a network transport service and a federated network data service of a federated data service provider via the global communications network and the network access hub in response to authenticating the first set of credentials, wherein said network data service is provided by a federated web-based data service provider; and
issuing to the electronic device via the authorization engine a token indicating a grant of authorizing access rights to a network data service and a network transport service and to federated network data services of federated data service providers via the global communications network and the network access hub in response to authenticating the first set of credentials, wherein said network data service is provided by a federated web-based data service provider.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a request for access to the federated network data service from [[an]] the electronic device; and

prompting the electronic device to send the first set of credentials[[:]]
~~authenticating the first set of credentials; and~~
~~communicating an authentication token to the electronic device.~~

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
requesting that the electronic device cache the ~~authentication~~ token;
receiving a subsequent request for access to a second federated network data service of a
second federated data service provider from the electronic device;
recognizing an existence of the ~~authentication~~ token at the electronic device; and
authorizing access to the second federated network data service of the second federated
data service provider in response to the subsequent request ~~without further~~
~~authentication~~ without the user having to provide the initial set of credentials to
re-authenticate with the second federated service provider.

10. – 12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A network access system comprising:
a plurality of hotspots communicatively coupled to a broad communications network;
an authorization engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network
and operable to issue ~~an authentication~~ a token to an electronic device
communicatively coupled to at least ~~[[one]]~~ a first hotspot of the plurality of
hotspots[[: and]], the ~~authentication~~ token operable as a valid indicator of access
rights to both transport services and federated data services of federated data
service providers over the broad communications network and the at least one of
the plurality of hotspots.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, wherein ~~further comprising~~ the
electronic device ~~having~~ includes a cache operable to store the ~~authentication~~ token.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, wherein ~~authentication~~ the token is a
valid indicator of access rights to both transport services and data services at a second ~~[[one]]~~
hotspot of the plurality of hotspots.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network and operable to receive an initial set of credentials from a ~~requesting~~ user ~~[[and]]~~, the authentication engine further operable to compare the initial set of credentials against a maintained set of credentials~~[[;]]~~ and to output a valid signal indicating that the ~~requesting~~ user is a valid user; and
a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of information associated with the valid user with a first federated data service provider.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network and operable to output a valid signal indicating that a user requesting access is a valid user and entitled to transport and data service access;
a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of at least a portion of ~~[[a]]~~ valid user information ~~[[file]]~~ with a first federated data service provider~~[[; and]]~~, the valid user information operable to facilitate access to a federated data service without additional sign on operations by the user requesting access.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the data service comprises a unified messaging mailbox.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the transport service comprises access to the broad communication network via ~~[[the]]~~ at least ~~[[one]]~~ the first hotspot of the plurality of hotspots.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising:
an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network
and operable to output a valid signal indicating that a user requesting access is a
valid user and entitled to transport and data service access;
a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of at least a portion of [[a]] valid user
information [[file]] with a first federated data service provider[[: and]], the valid
user information operable to facilitate access to a federated data service without
additional sign on operations by the user requesting access.